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State of Alaska  
Department of Transportation

Season's greetings,

I am requesting that Project ID#16090, Community Road Improvements and Extension for Unalakleet, be reconsidered and entered into the State STIP. This project had been in the 04-06 STIP but was cancelled in the 06-08 STIP.

Kawerak transportation is moving forward with the design of this project but would need the assistance of the State to make this project a reality. This portion of funding is coming out of our Indian Reservation Roads program and provides an opportunity for project cost sharing.

With a paving machine scheduled to be mobilized to Unalakleet with the airport project we feel this is an opportune time to cut down on costs for the streets project.

Below are several reasons I feel this project has merit to it and should be considered:

- Unalakleet has a steady growth and the number of trucks and all terrain vehicles has had a substantial increase in the last couple of years. This increased traffic creates a lot of dust in the summer and fall months.
- In the heat of the summer our homes are extremely hot because we are unable to keep our windows open with the dust, this is especially hard on our elders as they are not used to the heat.
- With this increase in the dust particles we have seen a substantial increase of asthma in our younger population, roughly 15% of our high school students struggle with asthma.
- We have seen a number of accidents the last few years with some of them due to drivers driving on the wrong side of the road. The residents drive on the left side of the road in some areas due to the many and large potholes in the streets.
- These streets provide access to our school, the Post Office, the sub-regional clinic, the airport, the stores, the harbor, and the job sites on a daily basis.
- Being a sub-regional hub there is a lot of activity and traffic being generated.
- We have seen damaged mail, i.e. broken bottles and cans and contents spilling over the other mail. Some of this is a result of transporting the mail through the rough roads between the Post Office and the airport.

This project would increase the quality of life for our residents in and surrounding our community, and provide for a more effective and efficient form of transporting goods.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide our comments and concerns, and offer any more information you may need in the future for this and other projects in our community. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time if needed.

Respectfully,

Steve Ivanoff  
Vice-President, Unalakleet Native Corporation